

The Kingdom: Heaven On Earth?

"God Is Closer Than You Think" Part 6 of 7
Pastor Vince DiPaola

"Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." (Matthew 6:10, NIV)

I) UNDERSTANDING THE KINGDOM OF GOD

***The ETERNAL rule of God over the world
that will one day culminate in Christ's reign on EARTH.**

1) There is a "NOW" component to God's kingdom.

"For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." (Colossians 1:13-14, NIV)

2) There is a "NOT YET" component to God's kingdom.

"So when they met together, they asked him, 'Lord are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He said to them: 'It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.'" (Acts 1:6-7, NIV)

II) LIVING THE KINGDOM OF GOD TODAY

How To Bring A Bit Of Heaven To Earth

1) Make sure you have ENTERED GOD'S KINGDOM.

"Jesus answered, 'I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'" (John 3:5-7, NIV)

2) We must live out KEY TRAITS OF GOD'S KINGDOM.

"For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by men." (Romans 14:17-18, NIV)

a) Model personal RIGHTEOUSNESS in a really wrong world.

"Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever." (Isaiah 9:7a, NIV)

b) Practice relational PEACE in a terribly troubled world.

"He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many people. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore." (Isaiah 2:4, NIV)

c) Express outrageous JOY in a sad and sorrowful world.

"And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.'" (Revelation 21:3-4, NIV)

3) Be prepared to endure trials FOR GOD'S KINGDOM.

"Strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. 'We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God.'" (Acts 14:22, NIV)

4) In every pursuit of your life, SEEK GOD'S KINGDOM.

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." (Matthew 6:33-34, NIV)